

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO[†]

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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From Some Editorial Notes:

From an article on "*Hematuria—An Initial Symptom of Chronic Nephritis*" by R. L. Rigdon, M.D., San Francisco.

Under the headings of essential hematuria, idiopathic hematuria, symptomless hematuria, etc., have been grouped a class of renal bleeding, the cause or causes of which were unknown. By the aid of newer methods of examination, chiefly ureteral catheterization, and more careful and complete microscopic examination of extirpated or autopsied kidneys, much additional light has been shed upon this obscure field of renal pathology, and today we are able to separate some of these so-called idiopathic hematurias into rather definite groups, and to more properly classify them. . . .

From an article on "*The Dietetic Treatment of Nephritis*" by Rene Bine, M.D., San Francisco.

Since the year 1827, when Richard Bright published his "Report of Medical Cases with a View of Illustrating the Symptoms and Cure of Diseases by a Reference to Morbid Anatomy," until recent years little was added to our knowledge of the normal and pathological physiology of the kidney, as compared with the progress made in the study of other organs. Therefore, the treatment of nephritis has rested solely upon empiricism. Careful clinical observation, as well as work on experimental nephritis, has lately done much toward explaining the various symptoms of nephritis, and placing its treatment upon a scientific basis. . . .

From an article on "*History of Rabies in Southern California*" by Stanley P. Black, M.D., and L. M. Powers, M.D., Los Angeles.

There is no disease, perhaps, in which the public mind is so beclouded as with that of hydrophobia. The general public often denies the existence of the disease, and even among the profession we have seen doctors who say they never saw a case of rabies, and who state, therefore, it does not exist. Rabies is a disease which affects many animals, most commonly dogs, and more rarely the human being; but Doctors Kerr and Stimson, in their paper read before the American Medical Association, had collected one hundred and eleven human deaths from hydrophobia in 1908. Every dog which bites an individual is not a rabid dog. It may be angry, but not hydrophobic. On the other hand, a large proportion of the hydrophobic dogs are unable to bite. We have the disease in the dog in two forms. First, and most common, the dumb variety, in which the lower jaw is paralyzed. The dog is usually quite nervous, oftentimes very affectionate; but the drop of the lower jaw is quite characteristic. In the other variety we have the furious type, in which the dog will bite anything coming in his way. He rarely fights, but bites and passes on. . . .

From an article on "*Ureterocystostomy*" by George B. Somers, M.D., San Francisco.

In October, 1905, Dr. T. W. Huntington asked me to see, with him, a patient suffering from ureteral fistula. In consultation he outlined a plan of operation which seemed to me both eminently practicable and possessed of original features. The procedure was carried out with perfect results. . . .

[†]This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

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BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA[†]

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

"Practice of medicine by corporations is illegal in California, Superior Judge C. J. Goodell held yesterday in deciding for the State in an action directed against the Pacific Health Corporation. The decision frowns on a plan whereby through payment of dues persons in good health might provide for medical and hospital service. The action was brought by the State Medical Board in *quo warranto* proceedings through Attorney-General Webb." (San Francisco *Chronicle*, October 16, 1935.)

"Whether the practice of naturopathy by a group of chiropractors in California should be permitted was left today by the Supreme Court [of the United States] to [California] State officials to determine. The court refused to review the ruling April 12, 1935, by the Southern Federal District Court of California that the dispute presented no federal question. The California Medical Practice Act and Chiropractic Act were called unconstitutional by the United States Naturopathic Association, Ltd., its officers and individual members. It listed headquarters at Phoenix, Arizona, and a branch at Hollywood and asked an injunction against the Chiropractic League of California, State Board of Examiners, and State officials to prevent them from 'arresting and otherwise interfering with' the naturopaths, who also are chiropractors." (Associated Press dispatch, dated Washington, October 14, and printed in the Los Angeles *Times*, October 15, 1935.)

"The State Chiropractic Act was challenged here today when Justice of the Peace C. R. Taylor ruled that the Act failed to define chiropractic and dismissed a local practitioner charged with violation of it. The ruling came in the case of Orville Savage, 50, arrested on complaint of George Swanson of the State Chiropractic Board. The defense contended that the State Act of 1922 did not define chiropractic and that no cause for the action existed. With the jury waiting to hear the case, the court ruled that the defense point was good and discharged Savage. Attorneys say the decision, if upheld, may upset the operation of the entire Act." (Press dispatch dated Watsonville, October 16, and printed in the San Francisco *Chronicle*, October 17, 1935.)

"In a decision which may have a far-reaching effect throughout the State regarding provisions of the State Chiropractic Act, Superior Judge Charles L. Allison Monday sustained the judgment of Justice Russell A. Wickizer in convicting E. B. Hartman, San Bernardino chiropractor, on three counts of violation of the State Medical Practice Act. Judge Allison held that those who hold licenses under the law enacted December 21, 1922, must conform to the statute as construed at that time. Any other interpretation, Judge Allison ruled, would empower all chiropractors to use such methods as are now taught in chiropractic schools and colleges, even if they were unacquainted with them. . . ." (Ontario *Report*, September 24, 1935.)

"Dr. Theodore Snypp appeared today before United States Commissioner J. Q. Brown in Sacramento to answer charges of prescribing narcotics in large quantities to alleged narcotic peddlers. He was taken into custody this morning by Hayden H. Saunders, Deputy

[†]The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.

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